COLORADO FOR FAMILY VALUES

STATEMENT TO THE PRESS

Tony Marco, Co-Chairman

July 31, 1991

Ladies and gentlemen, I'm Tony Marco, Co-Chairman of Colorado for Family Values. Representing a statewide coalition of concerned citizens, our Co-Chairman, Kevin Tebedo, Chairman of our Board, Will Perkins, and I have just filed proposed ballot initiative language with the Colorado Secretary of State's office.

This proposed initiative's goal is to ban sexual orientation from special protected status under Colorado civil rights laws.

It's our conviction that our civil rights laws were not intended to give protected status to sexual orientation, including homosexuality, bisexuality and lesbianism. Civil rights have historically been granted on the basis of characteristics of birth, such as race, color, gender, national origin, or being physically handicapped.

None of these characteristics which are protected by civil rights laws are behavioral in nature. Sexual orientation is behavioral, and not a characteristic comparable to ethnicity.

If having sex becomes all it takes to considered "ethnic," with full minority rights and privileges, the concept of ethnicity will have lost nearly all its meaning and value.

It's the goal of Colorado for Family Values to gather the necessary 52,000 signatures to put the initiative on the November 1992 General Election Ballot as a proposed constitutional amendment, specifically as Article 2, Section 30. You have in your press folder a copy of the language submitted today. It states:

> NO PROTECTED STATUS BASED ON HOMOSEXUAL, LESBIAN OR BISEXUAL ORIENTATION. Neither the State of Colorado, through any of its branches or departments, nor any of its agencies, political subdivisions, municipalities or school districts, shall enact, adopt or enforce any statute, regulation, ordinance or policy whereby homosexual, lesbian or bisexual orientation, conduct, practices or relationships shall constitute or otherwise be the basis of, or entitle any person or class of persons to have or claim any minority status, quota preferences, protected status or claim of discrimination. This section of the Constitution shall be in all respects self-executing.

The language is clear and to the point. We are attempting to maintain the integrity of our civil rights laws to protect citizens from discrimination for characteristics of true ethnicity, not for questionable behavioral aspects such as sexual preference or orientation.

You have in your press folder a fact sheet briefly describing the mission and history of our organization. Are there any questions?